



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/986,801	11/13/2001	Ron Craik	45207.1	6109

31209 7590 08/25/2005

DONALD V. TOMKINS
C/O TOMKINS LAW OFFICE
740, 10150 - 100 STREET
EDMONTON, AB T5J 0P6
CANADA

EXAMINER

AVELLINO, JOSEPH E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2143

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/986,801

Applicant(s)

CRAIK, RON

Examiner

Joseph E. Avellino

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-25 are presented for examination; claims 1, 10, and 25 independent.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 12, 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yacoob (USPN 6,170,742) in view of Dallas Semiconductor ("DS954B Crypto iButton FIPS 140-1 Non-Proprietary Cryptographic Module Security Policy", August 16, 1999) (cited by Applicant in IDS dated August 12, 2005) (hereinafter Dallas)..

4. Referring to independent claims 1 and 10 (e.g. exemplary claim 10), Yacoob discloses a method of storing and retrieving inspection and maintenance information

(e.g. abstract) regarding an equipment unit (i.e. aircraft, Figure 2), said method comprising the steps of:

- a. A computing device having a memory and a user interface whereby a user may enter user-defined data and commands into said memory (e.g. point of service transceiver 4102) (Figure 28; col. 24, lines 20-30);
- b. providing a memory button (i.e. smart instrument card), each comprising;
 - i. a read-write memory chip (i.e. an inherent feature of a smart-card);
 - ii. contact means electrically connected to the memory chip (an inherent feature, otherwise the data would never be able to be read by the interface) (Figure 4, ref. 3003);
- b. installing said memory button on or in the equipment unit in convenient association with a selected inspection and maintenance point (Figure 27; col. 23, lines 60-67);
- c. providing a memory button probe said probe being electronically connectable to the computing device by means of a first data link, said memory button probe having contact means adapted for contacting engagement with the contact means of a selected memory button so as to transfer data from the portable computing device to the selected memory button, or from the selected memory button to the portable computing device (col. 24, lines 7-51);
- e. providing, at a location remote from the equipment unit, a central computer 3005 (Figure 4) having a database, said central computer having a second data transfer link whereby the central computer is in electronic

Art Unit: 2143

communication with the portable computing device, said database having technical information relating to the equipment unit stored therein(Figure 4, ref. 3003);

f. performing an inspection or maintenance task on the equipment unit (i.e. aircraft) (e.g. abstract);

g. entering task performance information into the portable computing device relation to the performance of said inspection or maintenance task (Figure 7);

l. electronically transmitting a signal, corresponding to said task performance information, from the portable computing device to the memory button via said first link and the memory probe, so as to store performance information on the memory button (col. 14, lines 43-45).

Yacoob does not specifically disclose that the computing device is a portable computing device, however one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the point of service transceiver 4102 would be portable in order to make physical contact with the heavy machinery this invention is to be used upon. Yacoob furthermore does not disclose memory button comprises a read-write memory chip sealed inside an armored container, said memory chip having stored therein a unique and unalterable identification number, however Yacoob does disclose that the records maintained on the smart machine card can be of vital importance to the machine, its owners or operators, thereby providing motivation in order to safeguard this information, while keeping it close to the device as well as accessible to those who are allowed to have access to it. Dallas discloses a memory button which discloses a memory chip sealed

Art Unit: 2143

inside an armored container (Figure 3) said memory chip having stored therein a unique and unalterable identification number (p. 5, ¶ 1 *"Registration numbers are also lasered into unalterable ROM on the iButtons, which can be read by any application communicating with an iButton"*). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Dallas with Yacoob in order for the vital information stored on the smart card of Yacoob in a silicon chip encased in stainless steel, to "stand up to the harsh conditions of daily wear, including dropping it, stepping on it" as provided in Dallas (sec. 2.2)

5. Regarding claim 2, PDA, see col. 22, lines 60-65.
6. Regarding claim 3, computer network, this is an inherent feature of the system.
7. Regarding claim 4, wireless link, see Figure 27, ref. 4003.
8. Regarding claims 5-7 and 9, these are all inherent features of the system.
9. Referring to claims 8 and 17 (e.g. exemplary claim 8), Yacoob discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 1. Yacoob does not specifically state that the computer network server is protected by a firewall. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing for a firewall to protect a server is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 2143

the art to provide for a firewall to the system of Yacoob in order to provide a level of security to ensure sensitive data does not reach those who wish to do malicious harm (i.e. viruses, Trojan horses, etc.).

10. Claims 10-16, 18, 20-25 are rejected for similar reasons as stated above.

11. Referring to claim 19, Yacoob discloses the invention substantively as described in claim 18. Yacoob does not specifically disclose downloading data to a user computer and storing a backup copy of the data on the user computer. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing for storing a backup copy of data on a user computer from a database is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide for storing a backup copy of data on a user computer from a database to efficiently ensure the data is protected thereby to enhance the security of the data the comprises the maintenance information of Yacoob.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-25 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Art Unit: 2143

13. Once again, after a thorough review of the specification by the Examiner of Record, as well as a Primary Examiner skilled and familiar with the art, it cannot be determined if there is any patentable subject matter since Applicant is utilizing language open to broad interpretation. Applicant has provided no pertinent and reasonable arguments as to why this invention is patentable, as well as amend the claims only superficially, and thereby not further advancing prosecution of the case. It is advised that Applicant review the specification and thereby amend the claims to further advance prosecution of this case.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

15. Applicant is *strongly* advised to review the cited prior art, specifically Mabuchi, Wu, and Schlabach, before drafting amendments to the claims, since each of these inventions also read upon the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph E. Avellino whose telephone number is (571) 272-3905. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JEA
August 20, 2005



DAVID WILEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100